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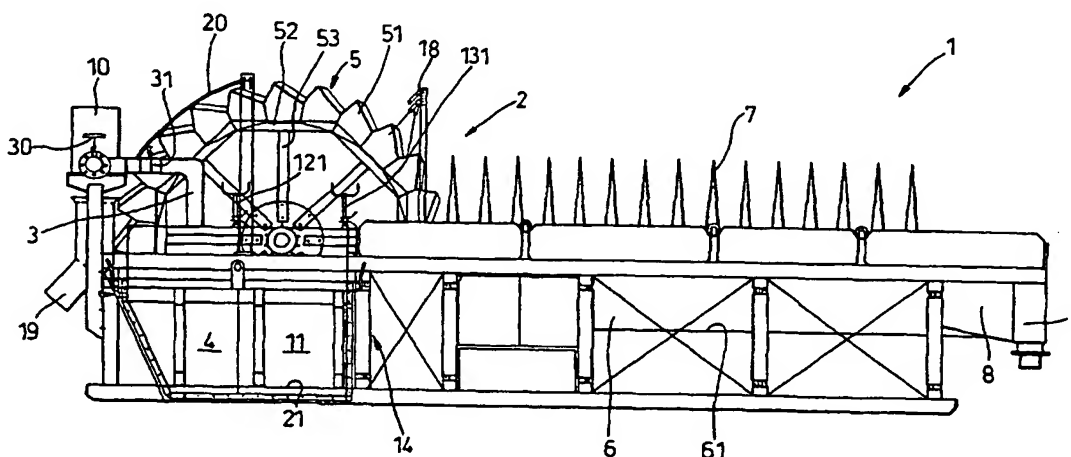
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(54) Title: SEPARATION OF SILT AND WATER



(57) Abstract: Apparatus for separating silt from water comprises a settling tank (1) having an inlet section (2) and inlet means comprising an inlet conduit (3) leading to a pre-reaction vessel (4) which communicates at its base with the inlet section of the settling tank. The inlet conduit is supplied with a valve (30), and the apparatus is equipped with dosing means (31) for the addition of flocculate to an inlet portion thereof. Means such as bucket wheels (5) are provided for removing settled material from the inlet section (2) of the tank (1) and means such as a helical screw (7) are also provided for sweeping settled material along the tank (1) from an outlet section (6) towards that inlet section (2). An outlet is provided for the discharge of water over a weir (8). Apparatus for washing sand or gravel which feeds used wash water to such a settling tank is also disclosed, as are methods of separating silt and water and of washing sand or gravel.

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